

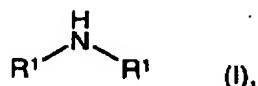
CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Cancel Claim 15, amend Claims 9, 13 and 14, and enter new Claims 16 and 17, as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

1. (original) A process for preparing a symmetrical secondary amine by reaction of a primary amine in the presence of hydrogen and a catalyst whose preparation has involved precipitation of catalytically active components onto monoclinic, tetragonal or cubic zirconium dioxide.
2. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalytically active components precipitated are salts of a metal selected from transition groups VIII and IB of the Periodic Table.
3. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salts are basic salts which are sparingly soluble or insoluble in water.
4. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the salts are oxides, hydrated oxides, hydroxides, carbonates and/or hydrogencarbonates.
5. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Pd, Pt and Cu.
6. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Cu, Ni and Co.
7. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalytically active composition of the catalyst before treatment with hydrogen comprises
from 20 to 85% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of zirconium, calculated as ZrO_2 ,
from 1 to 30% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of copper, calculated as CuO , and
from 14 to 70% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of nickel, calculated as NiO .
8. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalytically active composition of the catalyst before treatment with hydrogen comprises
from 20 to 65% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of zirconium, calculated as ZrO_2 ,
from 1 to 30% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of copper, calculated as CuO ,

from 15 to 50% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of nickel, calculated as NiO, and
from 15 to 50% by weight of oxygen-containing compounds of cobalt, calculated as CoO.

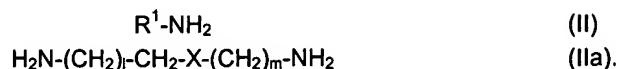
9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 5 7, wherein the molar ratio of nickel to copper is greater than 1.
10. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monoclinic, tetragonal or cubic zirconium dioxide contains one or more oxides of metals of transition groups IIIB or main group IIA of the Periodic Table.
11. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 50 to 250°C.
12. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at pressures of from 5 to 350 bar in the gas/liquid phase or in the gas phase.
13. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 for preparing a symmetrical secondary amine of the formula I



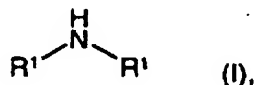
where

R^1 is alkyl ~~such as C_{1-200} -alkyl~~, cycloalkyl ~~such as C_{3-12} -cycloalkyl~~, hydroxyalkyl ~~such as C_{1-20} -hydroxyalkyl~~, aminoalkyl ~~such as C_{1-20} -aminoalkyl~~, hydroxyalkylaminoalkyl ~~such as C_{2-20} -hydroxyalkylaminoalkyl~~, alkoxyalkyl ~~such as C_{2-20} -alkoxyalkyl~~, dialkylaminoalkyl ~~such as C_{2-20} -dialkylaminoalkyl~~, alkylaminoalkyl ~~such as C_{2-20} -alkylaminoalkyl~~, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl ~~such as C_{7-20} -aralkyl~~, heteroarylalkyl ~~such as C_{4-20} -heteroarylalkyl~~, alkylaryl ~~such as C_{7-20} -alkylaryl~~, alkylheteroaryl ~~such as C_{4-20} -alkylheteroaryl~~,
or $\text{R}^3\text{R}^4\text{N-A-}$, where $\text{A} = \text{C}_{1-6}$ -alkylene or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ (where $n = 0, 1$ or 2) and $\text{R}^3, \text{R}^4 = \text{C}_{1-4}$ -alkyl or together with the N-atom to which they are bound form a piperidine or morpholine ring,
or the two radicals R^1 together form $-(\text{CH}_2)_1-\text{CH}_2-\text{X}-(\text{CH}_2)_m-$, where
 X is CH_2 , CHR^5 , oxygen (O), sulfur (S) or NR^5 ,
 R^5 is hydrogen (H), alkyl ~~such as C_{1-4} -alkyl~~, alkylphenyl ~~such as C_{7-40} -alkylphenyl~~,

l, m are each an integer from 1 to 4,
by reaction of a corresponding primary amine of the formula II or
IIa



14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 for preparing a symmetrical secondary amine of the formula I



where

R^1 is C_{3-10} -dialkylaminoalkyl ~~such as 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)propyl~~,
by reaction of a corresponding primary amine of the formula II



15. (canceled)

16. (new) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein

R^1 is C_{1-200} -alkyl, C_{3-12} -cycloalkyl, C_{1-20} -hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-20} -aminoalkyl, C_{2-20} -hydroxyalkylaminoalkyl, C_{2-30} -alkoxyalkyl, C_{3-30} -dialkylaminoalkyl, C_{2-30} -alkylaminoalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C_{7-20} -aralkyl, C_{4-20} -heteroarylalkyl, C_{7-20} -alkylaryl, C_{4-20} -alkylheteroaryl,

or $\text{R}^3\text{R}^4\text{N-A-}$, where $\text{A} = \text{C}_{1-6}$ -alkylene or $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-(CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O)}_n\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$ (where $n = 0, 1$ or 2) and $\text{R}^3, \text{R}^4 = \text{C}_{1-4}$ -alkyl or together with the N-atom to which they are bound form a piperidine or morpholine ring,

or the two radicals R^1 together form $-(\text{CH}_2)_1\text{-CH}_2\text{-X-(CH}_2)_m\text{-}$, where

X is CH_2 , CHR^5 , oxygen (O), sulfur (S) or NR^5 ,

R^5 is hydrogen (H), C_{1-4} -alkyl, C_{7-40} -alkylphenyl,

17. (new) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein R^1 is 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)propyl.